

Message from the Early Learning Coalition

This notice is about:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Important Deadline | <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance with State Requirement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free Resource(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development Opportunity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Readiness, VPK or other Contract Compliance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informational |

Dear Early Education Community:

Please find the below information on the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Department of Children and Families has announced that mass replacement of 40% of monthly SNAP benefits is now available to customers approved as of September 10th residing in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Customers do not have to submit an individual replacement form with mass replacement.

In addition to the mass replacement of SNAP benefits, the Department of Children and Families has additional information on program changes due to the impact of Hurricane Irma at:

<http://www.myfamilies.com/press-release/dcf-information-disaster-snap-food-florida>

FEMA Application Assistance

When:
Thursday, September 21
11:00AM—4:00PM

Where:
South Dade Regional Library
10750 SW 211 Street
Cutler Bay, FL 33189

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
and
Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Daniella Levine Cava
welcome those affected by Hurricane Irma to apply for FEMA assistance.

Though we were fortunate to have avoided the full brunt of the storm, we know the impact has left many families in need.

We will have 16 computers available on a roll-in basis along with Federal and County staff to personally assist applicants.

Daniella Levine Cava

Bill Nelson
Florida



Eligible Florida homeowners who sustained roof damage from Hurricane Irma can now apply for Operation Blue Roof and complete the Right of Entry (ROE) form that allows government employees and contractors onto their property to assess damage and install a temporary covering.

Apply at:
Lowe's Home Improvement
1850 NE 8th St., Homestead, FL

Beware of Fraud and Price Gouging

FEMA reminds everyone that after a disaster scam artists, identity thieves and other criminals may attempt to prey on vulnerable survivors. The most common post-disaster fraud practices include phony housing inspectors, fraudulent building contractors, bogus pleas for disaster donations and fake offers of state or federal aid.

Survivors should keep in mind:

- FEMA does not authorize individual contractors to solicit on its behalf. Beware of any individual contractors contacting you directly on behalf of FEMA to sign you up for debris removal or remediation services.
- If you have any concerns about individuals representing themselves as FEMA or would like to report fraud, please contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud at (866) 720-5721 or via email at disaster@leo.gov.
- Federal and state workers never ask for, or accept money, and always carry identification badges

- There is **NO FEE** required to apply for or to get disaster assistance from FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration or the state

Scam attempts can be made over the phone, by mail or email, text or in person.

Price Gouging:

Price gouging occurs when a supplier marks up the price of an item more than is justified by his actual costs. Survivors are particularly susceptible because their needs are immediate, and have few alternatives to choose from. If you find price gouging, contact you the [Florida State Office of the Attorney General](#).

Report Price Gouging

- Call: 1-866-966-7226
- [Price Gouging Complaint form](#)

Dealing with Contractors:

Survivors should take steps to protect themselves and avoid fraud when hiring contractors to clean property, remove debris or make repairs.

Simple rules to avoid becoming a victim of fraud:

- Only use contractors licensed by your state
- Get a written estimate and get more than one estimate
- Demand and check references
- Ask for proof of insurance
 - i.e., liability and Workmen's Compensation
- Insist on a written contract and refuse to sign a contract with blank spaces
- Get any guarantees in writing
- Make final payments only after the work is completed
- Pay by check.

The best way to avoid fraud is to arm yourself against it by having a checklist to remind you of what you need to demand when hiring a contractor.



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Miami-Dade: 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134 305.646.7220
Monroe: 1111 12 Street, Suite 1-206, Key West, FL 33040 305.296.5557